

Wabash Plain Dealer

WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 16, 2020

\$3

Shining light on Wabash County since 1859.

Tomorrow's weather 34 | 22



Pulse
of Wabash

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Wabash Marketplace announces Downtown Bucks giveaway

The popular "Stamping Map" during Downtown Holiday Night to Remember is being replaced with a new program called "Shop Local to Win." Wabash Marketplace is giving away \$1,000 over four weeks. Winners will be announced Monday, Dec. 21. Giveaway amounts range from \$20 to \$100. Downtown Bucks are

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Free virus testing to continue, now at Parkview Wabash

ISDH reports 29th, 30th and 31st local deaths from the virus

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

On Saturday, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) reported the 29th COVID-19 death in Wabash County. And, on Tuesday, the

ISDH reported the 30th and 31st local deaths.

Also, after being extended for an additional week, the free COVID-19 testing site located at Wabash Friends Church finally closed shop on Saturday.

But, that doesn't mean free local testing options are closed with it.

On Friday, the city of Wabash and Parkview Wabash Hospital announced they

would be partnering to continue to provide a site for OptumServe to administer free COVID-19 testing.

OptumServe will administer free COVID-19 testing from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays at Parkview Wabash Hospital "on an on-going basis." Testing will take place at 8 John Kissinger Drive in the first-floor conference room of the Medical Office Building (MOB)

adjoining Parkview Wabash Hospital. Testing site patrons should not use the MOB entrance or enter through the hospital, but instead, enter and exit through the designated entrance between the two buildings. Signage will mark the appropriate entrance, which is within a few steps of the conference room and testing site. Residents will have to register to schedule an appointment through the Optum/LHI web-

site by visiting <https://lhi.care/covidtesting> or by calling 888-634-1116.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for the city of Wabash and our partners at Parkview Wabash Hospital and the Parkview Physicians Group to continue to serve our community and the surrounding area during this pandemic. Testing is vitally important to gaining

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Parkview administers first COVID vaccine in state

County residents, including Parkview Wabash employees, to be vaccinated at MGH

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

At 12:09 p.m. Monday, Dec. 14, Parkview Health made history by administering the first COVID-19 vaccine in the state of Indiana.

The first doses were administered to a physician, nurse, respiratory therapist, pharmacist, patient care tech and environmental services tech.

The turnaround time was quick, as the state's first allotments of the vaccine had arrived that morning, said Parkview Health public relations manager Tami Brigle, during a press conference Monday.

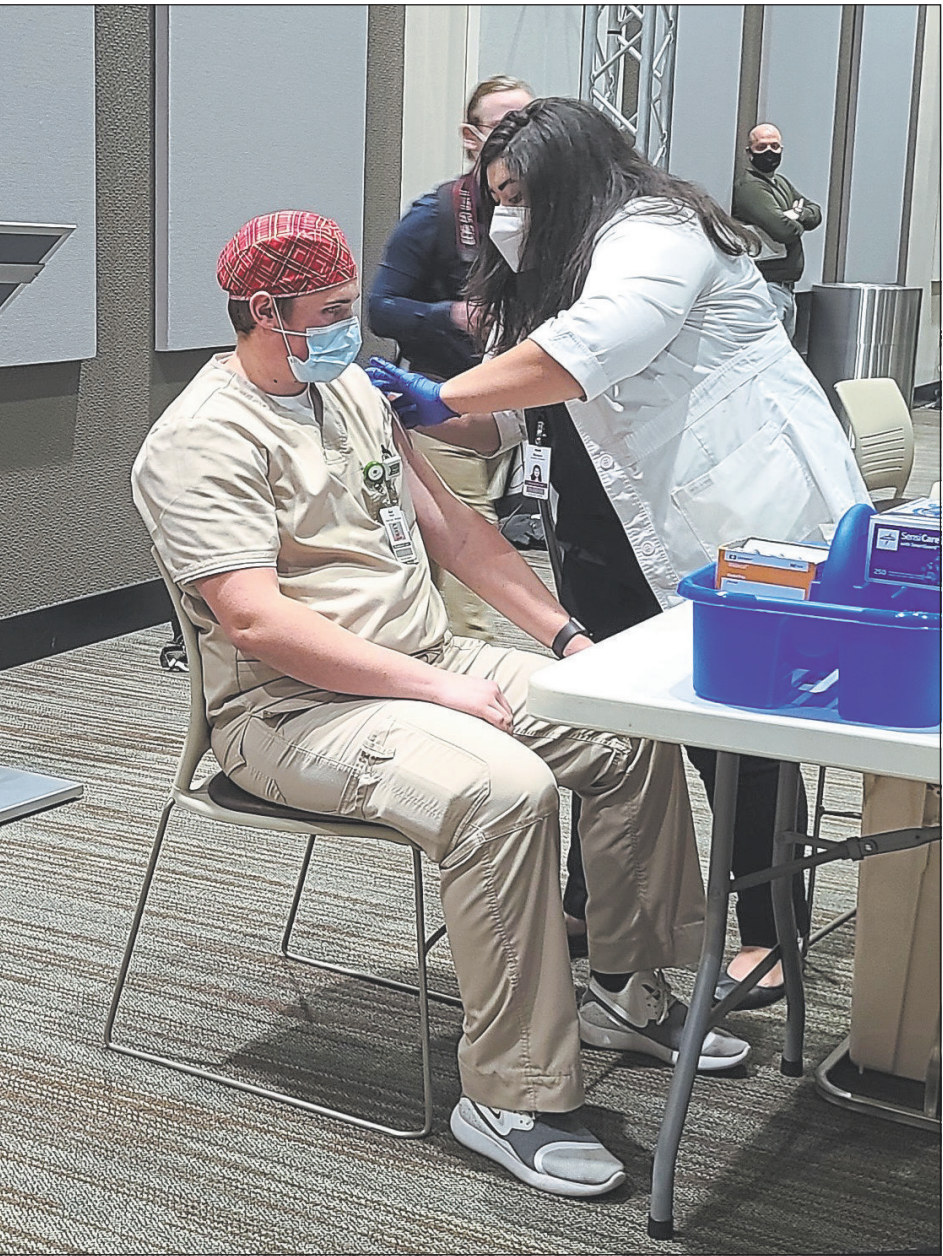
Brigle said mass vaccinations began Tuesday at the Parkview Mirro Center for Research and Innovation, which has been set up as a vaccine clinic, with areas for symptom screening, registration, vaccination and post-injection observation.

Parkview and Clark Memorial Hospital in Jeffersonville both received initial doses of vaccine Monday morning, according to the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH). The two are among the five pilot hospitals slated to receive the vaccine first. Additional vaccine is expected to arrive at Deaconess Hospital in Evansville, IU Methodist in Indianapolis and Community Hospital in Munster in the next few days.

Brigle said Parkview anticipates receiving a shipment of about 2,000 doses of the vaccine this week and 8,000 doses next week.

"Other approved regional health systems and hospitals are set to begin their vaccination clinics soon," said Brigle.

Brigle said in addition to vaccinating its co-workers who meet the criteria, Parkview will vaccinate eli-



Provided photos

ABOVE: At 12:09 p.m. Monday, Dec. 14, Parkview Health made history by administering the first COVID-19 vaccine in the state of Indiana. RIGHT: Preparation for the Parkview Health vaccine clinic began weeks ago.

gible healthcare workers from other organizations in Allen, Huntington and Whitley counties.

"While the majority of Parkview co-workers will be vaccinated at the Parkview Mirro Center, co-workers will be directed to various locations operated by other health



systems based on the county in which they work and other criteria," said Brigle. "Vaccination eligibility and location are determined by the ISDH.

Parkview does not make those determinations." As part of the state's

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County highway dept. prepares for wintry weather

Roads to be pre-treated before snow falls, in addition to using salt after it does

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

It's the middle of December, and even though the snowfall this year has been somewhat light, the Wabash County Highway Department has been preparing for precipitation.

On Monday, Wabash County Highway Department supervisor Cole Wyatt said they were anticipating several changes for when the weather turns this coming winter.

Spray trucks to pre-treat roadways

Wyatt said the first major change was the addition of a spray truck to pre-treat the roadways before the snow falls.

"This anti-icing procedure should help to prevent snow and ice from bonding to the pavement and begin the melting process from the bottom up," said Wyatt.

Wyatt said they would focus on primary roads as well as select trouble spots around the county with this application.

"We will be greatly reducing the amount of sand that is used on our roadways," said Wyatt.

Salt use will remain

However, Wyatt said the amount of salt they plan to use will not be decreased.

"The sand primarily acts as a visual aid to know where material has been applied,"

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City Council approves \$150K for new WCS intercom system

Communications improvements will connect school buildings and central dispatch

By ROB BURGESS
Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Communication between several Wabash City Schools

(WCS) buildings will soon be much easier thanks to a proposed intercom.

At Monday's Wabash City Council meeting, Mayor Scott

Long brought up the proposal to partially fund the new addition to the WCS safety program.

Long said the council had previously provided money for other safety measures at the WCS buildings, including the Raptor Visitor Manage-

ment System, which was supported through public safety local income tax (LIT) funds.

Long said there had been recent incidents which proved the need for better coordination between staff.

"In light of some issues that have occurred because of

communication snafus within our school building, the school resources officer and the schools have looked at a new system, which is an intercom system between buildings," said Long.

See COUNCIL, page A2



Paul Markiewicz
Registered Principal



Erica Markiewicz
Registered Representative

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TESTING

From page A1

control of the COVID-19 virus,” said Mayor Scott Long.

On Tuesday, media and community relations specialist Leslie Megison said Parkview Wabash Hospital was “simply providing the venue for this testing site.”

“All testing and processing is being handled by Optum, and the tests are free to the public,” said Megison. “If an individual wants to get a COVID-19 test through their Parkview Physicians Group provider, the Parkview guidelines ... would still apply.”

Megison said residents should contact their healthcare provider if you experience symptoms of COVID-19 including fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. Symptoms may appear two to 14 days after exposure to the virus. Seek care if you experience symptoms such as trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake and bluish lips or face.

School figures

The ISDH’s school dashboard was updated Monday, Dec. 14 with data as of 11:59 p.m. Friday, Dec. 11. The dashboard is updated weekly at noon Mondays.

Statewide, 193 schools reported no cases, 1,863 reported one or more case and 312 have not reported.

In Wabash County, only White’s Jr./Sr. High School has reported to the ISDH that they have no cases.

During the latest update, Wabash County schools with one or more confirmed cases included:

- Manchester Jr./Sr. High School (MHS) reported fewer than five new student positive cases, fewer than five new teacher positive cases, 33 total student positive cases, seven total teacher positive cases and eight total staff positive cases.
- Manchester Elementary School (MES) reported fewer than five each total student positive cases, total teacher positive cases and total staff positive cases.
- Manchester Intermediate School (MIS) reported fewer than five total student positive cases.
- Metro North Elementary

School reported fewer than five each total student positive cases, total teacher positive cases and total staff positive cases.

■ Heartland Career Center reported fewer than five each new staff positive cases and total staff positive cases.

■ Sharp Creek Elementary School reported fewer than five each total student positive cases, total teacher positive cases and total staff positive cases.

■ Northfield Jr./Sr. High School (NHS) reported 36 total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and eight total staff positive cases.

■ O.J. Neighbours Elementary School reported fewer than five new staff positive cases, fewer than five total student positive cases, seven total teacher positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.

■ Wabash Middle School reported fewer than five new student positive cases and 10 total student positive cases.

■ Wabash High School (WHS) reported fewer than five new student positive cases, 10 total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.

■ Saint Bernard Elementary School reported fewer than five each new teacher positive cases and total teacher positive cases.

■ Southwood Jr./Sr. High School reported fewer than five new student positive cases, 11 total student positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.

■ Southwood Elementary School reported fewer than five each total student positive cases, total teacher positive cases and total staff positive cases.

Local figures

On Saturday, the ISDH reported 29 new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 2,249, with 11,131 tests. The local seven-day positivity rate for all tests was 12.8 percent. The local seven-day positivity rate for unique individuals was 27.5 percent.

On Sunday, the ISDH reported 32 new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 2,281, with 11,236 tests. The local seven-day positivity rate for all tests was 14.3 percent. The local seven-day positivity rate for unique individuals was

26.5 percent.

On Monday, the ISDH reported 19 new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 2,300, with 11,249 tests. The local seven-day positivity rate for all tests was 13.9 percent. The local seven-day positivity rate for unique individuals was 26 percent.

On Tuesday, the ISDH reported 25 new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 2,324, with 11,315 tests. The local seven-day positivity rate for all tests was 14.3 percent. The local seven-day positivity rate for unique individuals was 26.5 percent.

Statewide figures

On Tuesday, the ISDH announced that 4,347 additional Hoosiers have been diagnosed with COVID-19 through testing at state and private laboratories. That brings to 434,642 the number of Indiana residents now known to have had the novel coronavirus following corrections to the previous day’s dashboard.

A total of 6,657 Hoosiers are confirmed to have died from COVID-19, an increase of 129 from the previous day. Another 311 probable deaths have been reported based on clinical diagnoses in patients for whom no positive test is on record. Deaths are reported based on when data are received by the state and occurred over multiple days.

To date, 2,446,551 unique individuals have been tested in Indiana, up from 2,435,885 on Monday. A total of 5,000,278 tests, including repeat tests for unique individuals, have been reported to the state Department of Health since Feb. 26.






In addition to the Wabash site, the ISDH will offer free COVID testing from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Saturday at the following locations:

- Covington Fire Station, 210 4th St. Covington.
- Grant County 4-H Testing, 1403 E. Indiana 18, Marion.
- Morgan County Testing, 1749 Hospital Drive, Martinsville.
- Ivy Tech – White County Testing, 1017 O’Connor Blvd., Monticello.

To find other testing sites around the state, visit www.coronavirus.in.gov and click on the COVID-19 testing information link.





Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

5-Day Weather Summary

 Wednesday Snow Likely 35 / 27	 Thursday Cloudy 34 / 22	 Friday Partly Cloudy 39 / 30	 Saturday Isolated Rain 42 / 31	 Sunday Mostly Cloudy 41 / 30
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Sun and Moon

Today's sunset 5:20 p.m.
Tomorrow's sunrise 7:58 a.m.

 First 12/21	 Full 12/29	 Last 1/6	 New 1/13
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Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see cloudy skies with a 75% chance of snow, high temperature of 35°, humidity of 89%. East southeast wind 5 to 9 mph. Snow accumulation of less than one inch possible. Expect cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 27°. Northwest wind 7 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 22°.

COUNCIL

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Long said with the proposed system, if an incident were to occur at Wabash Middle School, Wabash High School, O.J. Neighbours Elementary School, L. H. Carpenter Early Learning Center or the WCS administration office, all personnel could be notified immediately.

“You don’t have to pick up a phone. There’s a radio system that notifies them,” said Long.

Long said the system would also be able to be tied into the city’s central dispatch system, potentially looping in the police and fire departments.

“We’ll have every public safety agency notified at the same time the schools would be notified,” said Long.

Long said the total cost

of the proposed communications system was “in the neighborhood of” \$250,000 for all the buildings.

Long said in addition to the intercom, school resource officer Sam Hipskind had proposed additional lighting in the schools to go along with the intercom system.

“We do have students who are hearing impaired. So, we have to have visual aids available in all the buildings,” said Long.

Long said Hipskind and other school officials had approached him to see if the city could assist with the costs associated with the improvements.

“We have plenty of public safety LIT funds,” said Long.

Long said he was proposing using \$150,000 of these funds to put towards the improvements. He said this was money that was already budgeted for capital improve-

ments for 2020.

“It benefits the entire community,” he said. “It’s a one-time expenditure.”

After a motion by District 5 councilman Doug Adams and a second by District 4 councilwoman Susan Bonfitto, the item was approved unanimously.

After the vote, District 1 councilman Mitch Figert said he appreciated the inclusivity of the lighting system, especially.

“As a parent of a daughter who has hearing disabilities, I don’t think people recognize how hard of a struggle it is for her to hear, for those students to hear, when there is an emergency. So, I appreciate the effort you and the Sam and school put in to address that,” said Figert.

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

HIGHWAY

From page A1

said Wyatt. “I just want to reassure the public that we will still be treating the roadways even when they are not seeing that visual indicator.”

Wyatt said they would also be utilizing some part-time help during these events to decrease the amount of time needed to get our roadways clear.

“We intend to have at least two more trucks on the road than what have been utilized in recent years,” said Wyatt. “My goal is to focus on the primary roads while also doing as much as possible to keep all of our roads passable.”

Wyatt said he hoped residents would understand that they were unable to treat every mile of road in the county the same way.

“It is critical that we all drive according to the road conditions as they exist and be reassured that we are treating the roadways to the best of our ability with safety and budgetary constraints taken into consideration,” said Wyatt.

Addressing potential mailbox damage

Wyatt said despite their best efforts, some residents’ mailboxes may be damaged by the blades of passing snow plows.

“The county will address

damage to a residents mailbox only if the plow makes direct contact with the mailbox,” said Wyatt. “If the damage is a result of snow being thrown from the plow impacting the mailbox the responsibility will be the homeowners.

Wyatt said the department’s employees were dedicated to doing the best job possible under trying circumstances. He said he wanted to recognize “their dedication to getting Wabash County back on the roads after a snow and the pride they take in this effort.”

Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.

PULSE

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available for purchase online and in-person at Visit Wabash County, 221 S. Miami St. For more information, visit www.wabashmarketplace.org or call 260-563-0975.

Second Harvest to hold tailgate food distribution every other Wednesday

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana has planned tailgate food distributions for 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2021 at Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester; and 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23 and Jan. 27, 2021 at Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 2147 Indiana 15. For more information, visit www.curehunger.org, classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182 or <https://www.givepulse.com/group>

/203410.

Charley Creek Gardens Yule Time Stroll planned

The Charley Creek Gardens will be open for its 11th Annual Yule Time Stroll with casually lighted pathways for guests to enjoy. Every evening from 6 to 9 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 13 through Wednesday, Dec. 23, the Gardens will be open for guests to walk through with families, friends and thermoses of hot cocoa. Charley Creek Gardens is located at 551 N. Miami St. and parking for the Gardens is located at 518 N. Wabash St. Yule Time Stroll is free and open to the public. For more information, visit CharleyCreekGardens.org/events.

Salamonie to hold Winter Forest Day Camp

Salamonie Lake has announced an outdoor day camp from 8:30 a.m. to

1:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 4, 2021, to Friday, Jan. 8, 2021, at 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. Children ages 7 to 13 are welcome. The early bird registration discount ends Monday, Dec. 21. Events scheduled during the day camp include a daily hike, sit spots, games, shelter and fire building, small groups to prepare and present short presentations on nature topics. Participants will also meet education birds-of-prey ambassadors. The cost per child is \$60 and \$55 for each additional sibling. Register and pay by Monday, Dec. 21 and save \$10 per child. For more information and registration, call 260-468-2127. Limited space is available. For more information, visit dnr.IN.gov/uwis.

Editor's note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

VACCINE

From page A1

vaccination plan, Marion General Hospital (MGH) has been designated as a Phase I-A vaccine distribution site and will be responsible for handling the vaccination of health care workers in Grant and Wabash counties.

“If you work at Parkview Hospital you can be vaccinated,” said Parkview Health vice president of nursing informatics Michelle Charles. “If you’re not an employee here and you live in Wabash County you have to go elsewhere.”

More than 20,000 Indiana healthcare workers statewide have already registered to get their first dose.

More than 50 Indiana hospitals and clinics are expected to receive a total of 55,575 doses of vaccine by the end of the week, and additional shipments are expected weekly. The vaccine requires two doses administered a minimum of 21 to 28 days apart.

Because vaccine will be shipped to states in phases, Indiana has prioritized the first doses for frontline healthcare workers who provide direct patient care and therefore are at high risk of exposure to COVID-19, as well as long-term care residents and staff who have been significantly impacted by the pandemic.

“I’m just so proud and so fortunate to serve our coworkers and our community,” said Charles.

Charles said she was asked to lead the vaccination project about a month ago, and her team has held meetings every morning. She said before the vaccinations began, they held a practice run.

“We simulated the process three weeks ago where we had the whole clinic set up and took 15 people through the process to get cycle times,” said Charles. “From there, we took those cycle times and we



Provided photos

TOP: The first doses were administered to a physician, nurse, respiratory therapist, pharmacist, patient care tech and environmental services tech. ABOVE: Mass vaccinations began Tuesday at the Parkview Mirro Center for Research and Innovation.

built a computer model.

Charles said the computer model showed they needed to have at least 60 percent of participants registered.

“If not, there would be bottlenecks,” said Charles.

Charles said as a result, their goal was to have 80 percent of participants pre-registered.

Charles said their site was chosen as a distribution center due to the sub-zero refrigeration requirements of the vaccine.

“We have freezers that can accommodate minus 90 degrees Celsius temperatures,” said Charles.

Charles said once the first dose of the vaccine is administered, participants will need to come back for a second dose.

“We do know the first shot gives around 50 percent im-


munity, but to get to 95 percent immunity you have to get the second shot within 21 days,” said Charles.

Charles said that while the vaccine is not mandatory for employees, “we strongly encourage it.”

“It is best to get the vaccine,” said Charles. “We know it is a choice. Of course, when it’s my turn I will take the shot because I think it’s the right thing to do for me and the community. The only way to fight this virus is to get this vaccine, so it’s important.”

For more information, visit www.coronavirus.in.gov/vaccine.

Tim Tedeschi, Chronicle-Tribune managing editor, contributed to this story. Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.



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Obituaries

Frances Slocum Chapter of the DAR holds December meeting

The next meeting will be Jan. 12, 2021, at the Grandstaff Hentgen Activity Room

STAFF REPORT

The monthly meeting of the Frances Slocum Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) took place on Saturday, Dec. 12 at the Church of Christ of Wabash Fellowship Room, according to regent Barbara Amiss.

The meeting opened with the DAR ritual, followed with devotions by Tamra Wise.

The chapter welcomed new members Julie Stouder, LaVerne Marion, Diane Hochstetler, Alexis Wright and Lesley Vigar.

The December President General's message from Denise Doring VanBuren was shared by Joyce Joy.

"As we mark this month of shortened days and darkest nights, let us challenge to shine brightly from within through support of our society and service to our neighbors," said Doring VanBuren. "Amidst all of the family traditions and holiday festivities, it is so important that we continue to demonstrate our love of country and our appreciation for the sacrifice of both those who founded it and those who continue to defend it."

The National Defender report honored National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, Dec. 7.

"We annually remember and honor the 2,403 U.S. citizens who were killed in the surprise attack on Naval Station Pearl Harbor at Oahu,

Hawaii Territory, by the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service in 1941," said Amiss. "President Franklin Roosevelt referred to the attack as 'a date which will live in infamy.' The attack brought the U.S. completely into World War II. The members completed a short quiz on facts surrounding the attack on Pearl Harbor on Sunday, Dec. 7."

The December program was about the Christmas candy cane legend.

"Many legends about the origin of candy canes claim that they were first used at Cologne Cathedral, Germany in 1670. This was an invention to keep the children quiet by the choirmaster. The crook will remind us of the shepherds tending their sheep or represents the letter 'J.' The hard texture of the candy symbolizes the rock on which the church was built. The candy was eventually flavored with peppermint to remind us of the hyssop plant mentioned in the Old and New Testament. The first documented use of the candy cane was in 1847 by a Swedish-German immigrant in Ohio named August Imgard to decorate his Christmas tree," said Amiss.

The next meeting of the Frances Slocum Chapter will be Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2021, at the Grandstaff Hentgen Activity Room.

Prospective members and guests are always welcome to attend. DAR membership is open to any woman 18 years of age, who can prove lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution.

For more information, visit www.dar.org or call Linda Thompson at 260-563-4661 or Amiss at 260-982-4376.

Heartland Learning Center's \$1M fundraising campaign begins

Grant requires matching funds from the community

STAFF REPORT

On Thursday, Dec. 10, the Wabash County Commission, officials from Heartland Career Center's (HCC) five-member school corporations, Grow Wabash County, and the Community Foundation of Wabash County (CFWC) officially kicked off a \$1 million fundraising campaign for the new Heartland Learning Center, according to CFWC program director Julie Garber.

In 2019, Wabash County Commissioners had the opportunity to compete for a \$4 million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration to create a workforce training center on the Heartland Career Center campus. The grant requires \$1 million in matching funds from the community.

As part of the application process, HCC partner corporations secured commitments from lenders to cover the cost of the match if no charitable dollars were raised, but Commissioners, HCC member corporations and community partners hope to raise the entire match. Already generous

contributions have reduced the need to borrow and will relieve schools and taxpayers of the significant debt burden. At press time, a total of \$288,500 in gifts and pledges have been received to meet the \$1 million match.

"Every dollar contributed becomes a five-dollar investment in our region. There are not many giving opportunities that provide as much leverage, reduce our need to finance the project, and, thanks to the Community Foundation, are tax-deductible," said HCC director Mark Hobbs.

HCC plans to construct a 35,000 square foot, stand-alone building to house a workforce training center for post-secondary students. The space will have benefits for high school students as well. Programs at the center will focus on healthcare and advanced manufacturing, covering a wide variety of certifications in the industry.

"A dedicated adult education center would provide Ford Meter Box with a location for centralized resources & expert educators, fully equipped to meet our manufacturing training needs," said Ford Meter Box vice president of human resources Kelly Stouffer. "Uniform training allows us to respond to skills

gaps and offer re-training or paced training to meet more learning styles. With an adult education center nearby, Ford Meter Box would be able to educate more employees and be able to offer more opportunities when only a handful of people need to be trained on a topic."

With the help of the CFWC, gifts to the project are charitable and tax-deductible.

"On the behalf of the foundation, we are thrilled to be a part of this great opportunity that's going to help many people throughout the region and advance talent development and skills that are available to new companies and companies that are here already," said CFWC executive director Patty Grant.

Gifts received on or before Dec. 31 will be receipted for the 2020 tax year. Donors wishing to contribute can make checks payable to the Community Foundation of Wabash County and write Heartland Learning Center Fund in the memo line. Drop off or mail checks to the Community Foundation, 105 W. 2nd St., North Manchester, IN 46962.

For more information, contact Hobbs by phone at 260-563-7481, ext. 1227, or by email at mhobbs@hcc.k12.in.us.

ISP Trooper Smith promoted to sergeant

He will serve as a squad leader at the Peru Post

STAFF REPORT

On Monday, Indiana State Police (ISP) Superintendent Douglas G. Carter announced the promotion of Trooper Andrew Smith to the rank of sergeant, according to Peru Post public information officer Sgt. Tony Slocum.

In his new assignment, Smith will serve as a squad leader at the ISP Peru Post.

Smith, a four year-veteran of the department, began his

career at the ISP Peru Post where he was assigned road patrol duties primarily in Miami County. With his recent promotion, Smith will supervise troopers assigned to the ISP Peru Post.

During his career, Smith has served the state police as a field training officer and as a drug recognition expert.

Smith is 2003 graduate of Eastbrook High School. He holds a bachelor's degree in biblical literature from Taylor University. Smith and his wife reside in Miami County with their daughter.



ISP Trooper Andrew Smith was promoted to the rank of sergeant.

Laura M. Wildoner

Nov. 13, 1926 – Dec. 12, 2020



Laura M. Wildoner, 94, of Warren, Indiana, died at 4:48 am, Saturday, December 12, 2020 at Heritage Pointe of Warren. She was born November 13, 1926 in Wabash, Indiana, to Louie G. and Elizabeth (Milam) Wildoner.

Laura was a 1945 graduate of Chippewa High School. She worked for United Insurance Company, in both Fort Wayne and Indianapolis 45 years as a traveling auditor.

She is survived by nephews, Toni Miller of Dallas,

Texas, and Mike Miller of Roann, Indiana. She was preceded in death by her parents, two sisters, Mable Cummings and Dorothy Kirkpatrick, and her longtime companion, Chester Burnett.

Services will be private. Burial will be in Fairview Cemetery, Servia, Indiana. Arrangements by Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

The memorial guest book for Laura may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Colleen B. Weesner

April 3, 1930 – Dec. 13, 2020



Colleen B. Weesner, 90, of Wabash, Indiana, died at 11:50 pm, Sunday, December 13, 2020 at Wellbrooke of Wabash. She was born on April 3, 1930 in Wabash, to Walter and Edith (Aukschun) Horner.

Colleen married Richard Lee Weesner on August 7, 1949, in Wabash, Indiana, he preceded her in death on June 26, 1976. She worked at Spicee, was the manager at Dollar General several years, and also worked at Kmart, all of Wabash. She was a member of Christ United Methodist Church.

She is survived by her son, Steven Lee (Tammy) Weesner of Lagro, Indi-

ana, sisters, Elsie M. Strickler, Bette (Charles) Boyer, and Mary Jean (Edwin) Carpenter, all of Wabash, and one grandchild. She was also

preceded in death by her parents, brother, Nevin Horner, and two sisters, Evelyn Lester and Juanita Horner.

Services will be private. Burial will be in Gardens of Memory Cemetery, Marion. Arrangements are entrusted to Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash.

Preferred memorial is American Diabetes Association.

The memorial guest book for Colleen may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

Matthew Todd Melzoni

March 16, 1984 – Dec. 13, 2020

to music.

He is survived by grandparents, Petero Jr. & Sandra Melzoni and mother, Mindy Harris, all of Wabash, twin children, Alexander Matthew Melzoni and Adilyn Jo-Dean Melzoni, both of Warren, Indiana, companion, Tiffa-

Dora Marie Fraustein Denniston

Sept. 1, 1931 – Dec. 12, 2020



Dora Marie Fraustein Denniston, 89, of Wabash, Indiana, died at 11:45 pm, Saturday, December 12, 2020 at her residence. She was born on September 1, 1931 in Wabash County, Indiana, to Charles and Veva (Chamness) Russell.

Dora was a 1949 graduate of Urbana High School. She first married John Fraustein in Urbana on September 23, 1950; he died October 18, 1983. She then married John H. Denniston on May 23, 1986; he died January 18, 1989. Dora worked at Honeywell/Markhon in Wabash, retiring in 1987 after 22 years. She then worked at the Wabash Christian Church from 1992-2005. Dora was a member of Bachelor Creek Church of Christ and an active member of the Frances Slocum Chapter of the DAR. She enjoyed jigsaw puzzles and especially enjoyed her family.

She is survived by children, Thomas (Teresa) Fraustein of LaFontaine, Indiana, Susan (Michael) Rose of Drummonds, Tennessee, and Kathy (David) Tyner of Wabash, eight grandchildren, Darren (Ramona) Lehman, Lisa Franklin, Olivia (Jason) Holland, Amanda (Jeremie) McAlpin,

Brad Tyner, Alicia (Brian) Draper, Stacey (Beau) Strack, and Nicole (Adam Whiteman) Fraustein, 14 great-grandchildren, two great-great-grandchildren, and a brother, David Russell of Paw Paw, Michigan. She was preceded in death by her parents and three sisters.

Funeral services were held at 10:00 am on Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, 1241 Manchester Avenue, Wabash, with David Stokes officiating. Burial was in Falls Cemetery, Wabash.

Preferred memorial is Riley Children's Hospital.

The memorial guest book for Dora may be signed at www.grandstaff-hentgen.com.

PENDING SERVICES

Imogene J. Bradford, 87, of LaFontaine: passed away on December 13, 2020. Services are pending and have been entrusted to McDonald Funeral Homes, LaFontaine Chapel.

VFW Post No. 286 to host fish fry Friday

STAFF REPORT

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post No. 286 will host a fish fry from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18 at 3678 W.

Old 24, according to Dan Ford.

The menu will include hand beer-battered fish, baked beans, coleslaw and hush puppies.

The cost will be \$9 per

person. The event will be open to the public.

"Current COVID-19 restrictions (will be) observed," said Ford.

For more information, call 260-563-2463.

Downtown Wabash receives statewide recognition

Fort Wayne, Goshen and Kokomo also invited to apply for Cultural District Designation

STAFF REPORT

On Friday, Dec. 11, the Indiana Arts Commission voted to approve Wabash, Fort Wayne, Goshen and Kokomo for Spotlight Community recognition as part of the Creative Community Pathway program, according to Wabash Marketplace executive director Andrea Zwiebel.

These four communities have been invited to apply for Cultural District Designation, a designation held by only 10 Indiana communities. Established in 2010, Indiana Cultural Districts are well-recognized, labeled, mixed-use areas of a community, in which high concentrations of cultural assets serve as the anchor. Indiana Statewide Cultural Districts promote the exploration of and participation in the arts and humanities through cultural experiences that are unique to our communities.

The designation process in Downtown Wabash is led by Wabash Marketplace, along with support from the local District Committee consisting of downtown partners.

"The District Committee is working diligently to promote the many artistic and cultural offerings in Downtown Wabash. Recognition from the Indiana Arts Commission is such an honor," said Zwiebel.

The local District Committee consists of Wabash County Museum, The Honeywell



Provided photo

On Friday, Dec. 11, the Indiana Arts Commission voted to approve Wabash, Fort Wayne, Goshen and Kokomo for Spotlight Community recognition as part of the Creative Community Pathway program.

Foundation, a panel of local artists, Visit Wabash County, Wabash City Schools, City of Wabash, Grow Wabash County and Wabash Marketplace.

One of the anchor assets in Downtown Wabash is The Honeywell Foundation, which operates Eagles Theatre and Honeywell Center.

Regarding the recognition from the Indiana Arts Commission, they said, "The Honeywell Foundation is thrilled to see Wabash designated as a Spotlight Community. Over the years, the Foundation has welcomed thousands to Wabash to enjoy Honeywell programs. Time and again, patrons return because they not only love Honeywell programs, but all that Wabash offers."

The local District Committee is eager to utilize this recognition as part of a larger strategy for downtown revitalization.

"The leadership team is thrilled to see Downtown Wabash take this exciting next step in our journey toward becoming an official cultural

district in the State of Indiana," said Grow Wabash County's Tenille Zartman. "More and more the cultural currency of a community like Wabash is an indelible part of its future growth not only in its recognition across the state, but also in the attraction of talent, businesses and families that will allow Wabash to thrive and represent the best things Indiana has to offer."

Zwiebel said the Creative Community Pathway is a roadmap for any Indiana community to start, focus or deepen arts and culture-based strategies to grow community wellbeing.

"As a capacity building program, the Pathway aligns local creative assets – artists, arts and culture strategies, partners, and resources – to support a community's unique goals and dreams. Simultaneously, it organizes a sustainable, healthy creative environment for artists and cultural organizations," said Zwiebel.

For more information, call 260-563-0975.

Episcopal leaders on church’s Groundhog-Day nightmares

With America facing a bitterly divisive election, Episcopal Church leaders did what they do in tense times – they held a National Cathedral service rallying the Washington, D.C., establishment.

This online “Holding onto Hope” service featured a Sikh filmmaker, a female rabbi from Chicago, the Islamic Society of North America’s former inter-faith relations director, the female presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a Jesuit priest known for promoting LGBTQ tolerance, and former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

“Our ideals, values, principles and dreams of beloved community matter,” said Episcopal Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, the church’s first African American leader. “They matter to our life as a nation and as a world. Our values matter!”

This was the kind of rite – think National Public Radio at prayer – a church can offer when its history includes 11 U.S. presidents and countless legislators and judges from coast to coast. Episcopal leaders also know President-elect Joe Biden is a liberal Catholic whose convictions

mesh with their own. That’s the good news. Episcopalians have also been hearing plenty of bad news about their future.

For example, Curry became a media superstar after his soaring sermon at Prince Harry and Meghan Markle’s wedding. But wedding trends in his own flock have been pretty bleak. Ditto for baptisms.

A stunning 2019 report from Episcopal parishes showed 6,484 weddings – down 11.2 percent from the previous year. Baptism rites for children fell to 19,716 (a one-year drop of 6.5 percent), and adult baptisms to 3,866 (a one-year drop of 6.7 percent). Since 2003, baptisms are down 50 percent.

Office of the General Convention statistics reported 1,637,945 members in 2019 (down 2.29 percent from 2018) and average attendance fell to 518,411 (down 2.25 percent). Median attendance dropped from 53 worshippers to 51, while 61 percent of parishes saw attendance declines of 10 percent or more.

All of these statistics predate the coronavirus pandemic.

The Episcopal News Service offered these blunt words from the Rev. Dwight Zscheile, an expert on church renewal and decline: “The overall picture is dire – not one of decline as much as demise within the next generation. ... At

this rate, there will be no one in worship by around 2050 in the entire denomination.”

Episcopal Church membership peaked at 3.4 million in the 1960s, a pattern seen in other mainline Protestant bodies. This decline has accelerated, with membership falling 17.4 percent in the past 10 years.

As a rule, the crisis is worse in the Northeast and the Midwest, while losses have been slower in the Sun Belt and some parts of the West. In terms of worst-case scenarios, the Diocese of Northern Michigan remains open for business, but reported an average attendance of 385 in 2019. That’s the whole diocese.

“The news, friends, continues to be not good, very bad, alarming, four horsemen of the apocalypse, dogs and cats living together, bad,” noted the Rev. Tom Ferguson of St. John’s Church in Sandwich, Massachusetts. He is the former academic dean of Bexley Seabury Seminary in Chicago.

“We have more parishes with an average attendance of less than 10 persons than we do with congregations with attendance of 300 or more,” he wrote in an online essay entitled “The Collapse Is Here.” Many of these “Groundhog Day” reports fail to take into account “other demographic, such as we are about

87 percent Anglo when the United States is about 62 percent Anglo. ...

“We are old and white in a missional context that is less old and less white.”

How old? The Episcopal Church had the highest average age among the 20 faiths charted in the 2017 to 2019 Cooperative Congressional Election Study, said political scientist Ryan Burge of Eastern Illinois University. The average Catholic is 50, the average nondenominational evangelical is 49 and the average atheist is 42. The average Episcopalian is almost 59.

“If you took the membership rolls of every ECUSA church ... and grabbed a random person from that spreadsheet, the most likely age of that person would be 69. For a Mormon, the modal age is 29,” wrote Burge at Religion in Public, a blog he co-founded.

“Generational replacement is the key factor that buoys the size of churches. ... If life expectancy stays around 78 years old, that means that the average Episcopal church would lose half its current membership through death by 2040. Are there enough children to make up for those losses? Again, the data says that is unlikely.”

Terry Mattingly leads Get Religion.org and lives in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. He is a senior fellow at the Overby Center at the University of Mississippi.

The source of salvation

Remember that ‘80s song “I Need a Hero”? This whole year has me singing the chorus quite a bit. That’s why Joe Biden and Kama-

Kathryn Lopez



la Harris are Time magazine’s “Person of the Year.” Meanwhile, the fact of the matter is the kind of salvation people are looking for

does not come from politics, no matter how much we may want it to. I’ve often thought of Pope Francis’ prayer service early on in the pandemic. You couldn’t have scripted it better; it occurred on a rainy night in Rome, with the sounds of ambulances and other emergency vehicles constantly in the background. And he prayed and he prayed. And, as it happens, numbers of deaths did start to go down after that point in Italy. Maybe prayer is, in fact, action.

In his homily, Francis kept hitting a theme that resonates to this day: “Why are

you afraid?” Haven’t we all asked ourselves this question this year? Many, if not most, of us obviously fear death. There’s also the very practical and understandable fear of making someone more vulnerable than us sick. “Love your neighbor” took on a new urgency, but then so should an appreciation that all of life involves some level of risk.

Francis said: “You are calling on us to seize this time of trial as a time of choosing. It is not the time of your judgment, but of our judgment: a time to choose what matters and what passes away, a time to separate what is necessary from what is not. It is a time to get our lives back on track with regard to you, Lord, and to others.”

That’s what this year has been about: priorities in this short life. And getting it right is an ongoing process, so be humble and kind.

Pope Francis went on that day, repeating the questions about fear and faith, adding: “Faith begins when we realize we are in need of salvation. We are not self-sufficient.”

Of course, Pope Francis didn’t point to President Donald Trump or then-candidate Joe Biden or any other mere mortal as the possible source of salvation. He pointed to God: “Let us hand over our fears to him so that he can conquer them.” He added: “God’s strength [is] turning to the good everything that happens to us, even the bad things. He brings serenity into our storms, because with God, life never dies.”

On Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, an occasion that cities in Europe normally mark with fireworks displays, Pope Francis declared a year dedicated to St. Joseph, Jesus’ earthly father. Pope Francis has been telling of his fondness for Joseph since he came on the international scene. He made popular an image of Joseph sleeping. He has a statue of him on a table in his room, and he writes down things that are burdening him and gives them to Joseph.

It makes a lot of sense that at this time of unrest and division, of so much anxiety and uncertainty, especially

concerning families, Francis would point to Joseph. There is a silent confidence about the man who raised Jesus, and in this selfie age, where so many rush to an opinion before even basic information is known, Joseph is someone who might help us cultivate silence and listening. And he’s a Jewish father, at a time when anti-Semitism is rearing its evil head again.

One of the things Francis says in his letter about Joseph is: “St. Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all.”

There is tremendous power in virtue. Live well and that will be more important than all the politicians in the world.

Kathryn Jean Lopez is senior fellow at the National Review Institute, editor-at-large of National Review magazine and author of the new book “A Year With the Mystics: Visionary Wisdom for Daily Living.” She is also chair of Cardinal Dolan’s pro-life commission in New York. She can be contacted at klopez@nationalreview.com.

U.S. regulators OK genetically modified pig

By CANDICE CHOI
Associated Press

NEW YORK — U.S. regulators have approved a genetically modified pig for food and medical products, making it the second such animal to get the green light for human consumption. But the company behind it says there are no imminent plans to sell it for meat.

The pig is genetically engineered to eliminate the presence of alpha-gal, a type of sugar found in many mammals. The sugar makes its way into many products – including medications, cosmetics and food – and can cause allergic reactions in some people.

The main goal of the company behind the pig, United Therapeutics Corp., is to develop medical products, such as blood thinners, that won’t set off such reactions, said its spokesman Dewey Steadman. Eventually, the Silver Spring, Maryland-based firm hopes to develop a way for the pig’s organs to be transplanted into people.

The pig, called GalSafe, also has commercial potential as food, but Steadman said the

company doesn’t know when it might be able to secure an agreement with a meat producer to process and sell it. He noted the meat allergy the pig addresses, called alpha-gal syndrome, isn’t yet considered a major issue.

“It’s known, but it’s not well known,” Steadman said.

Health researchers don’t fully understand how the allergy develops, but it has been tied to bites from certain ticks. In 2009, there were 24 reported cases, but more recent estimates exceed 5,000 cases, according to a report by a working group for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Symptoms can include hives, itching, cramping and vomiting. Unlike other food allergies, alpha-gal reactions typically happen several hours after eating beef, pork or lamb, making it difficult to diagnose.

Jaydee Hanson, policy director for the Center for Food Safety, noted that meat from the genetically modified pigs wasn’t tested in people with the allergies.

“You’re offering it up as something they can eat, without knowing whether it addresses their allergy,” Hanson

said.

The FDA said it didn’t evaluate allergy-specific food safety, since the company’s application didn’t include data on the preventing such reactions.

The Center for Food Safety has sued the FDA over the first genetically modified animal the agency approved for human food – salmon engineered to grow faster. The group said it’s reviewing the agency’s decision on the GalSafe pig posted Monday.

Greg Jaffe of the Center for Science in the Public Interest said the FDA’s approval of the GalSafe pig announced Monday is also concerning because it came without a chance for public comment.

“Nobody was given notice, and all of a sudden there’s an approved animal,” he said.

The company didn’t disclose exactly how it altered the animal’s DNA. Jaffe said the pig was produced by knocking out a gene responsible for producing the sugar and adding another that serves as a marker for the silenced gene.

Jaffe said he’s not aware of any rules on how pork from genetically modified pigs would need to be labeled to be

sold in supermarkets. A representative for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which oversees meat labeling, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Steadman said the United Therapeutics pigs would be more difficult to produce than conventional pigs for meat because of requirements governing how they must be kept and slaughtered. He said there are about 25 GalSafe pigs at an Iowa farm.

Long term, he said the goal is to combine the genetic modification with multiple other changes to make their organs acceptable for transplants in people. For years, researchers have been looking into the idea of transplanting pig organs as a way of eliminating shortages of donated organs.

Though there aren’t any plans yet to sell meat from GalSafe pigs, the genetically modified salmon could become available in the U.S. soon. AquaBounty, the company that produces the fish, says it is determining the best time to harvest the salmon, which have been growing in indoor tanks at a plant in Indiana.

First-generation college student at Manchester realizes her dream in STEM field

Each honored student received \$3,000 to help with college costs
By JENNIFER WAGNER

Manchester University’s 2020 Realizing the Dream recipient is Heather Binion, a sophomore with a double major in chemistry and engineering science. She is the first in her family to attend college.

Binion wants to be a good role model for her younger relatives and works hard to demonstrate that women are capable of anything they put their minds to, including being in a STEM field. STEM, of course, stands for science, technology, engineering and math.

Binion has wanted to be an engineer since she was 11 years old and learned how much she enjoyed chemistry from her high school chemistry class back in Lebanon.

The Realizing the Dream scholarship is provided for 30 first-generation college students from Indiana’s private, nonprofit colleges and universities by the Independent Colleges of Indiana. It is funded by Lilly Endowment. They were chosen by their colleges for outstanding achievement in their first year.

Binion ranked second in her high school class at Lebanon Senior High School. At Manchester, she has a 4.0 GPA and is involved in the American Chemical Society, Society of Physics Students and Advocates of the Mind.

She works as a Spartan Ambassador, giving tours to prospective Manchester students, and she is a physics peer tutor. Her volunteer service includes the annual Walk Into My Future event



Provided photo

Manchester University’s 2020 Realizing the Dream recipient is Heather Binion, a sophomore with a double major in chemistry and engineering science.

at MU that introduces elementary school students to the college environment, donating blood and helping with the U Can Crush Hunger campaign for the region’s food pantries.

After Manchester, she plans to finish her engineering degree at an engineering school and then attend graduate school.

Binion loves college and appreciates her education. “Every day in college makes me mature, teaches me life skills, and will one day help me fully transition into adult life,” she said. “I am grateful for this opportunity, and I will continue to work hard to make myself, my friends, and my family proud.”

Each honored student in Realizing the Dream received \$3,000 to help with college costs, and each student’s selected “most influential” teacher received a \$1,000 professional development grant. Binion selected Alan Conrad from Lebanon Middle School.

Jennifer Wagner is the student assistant in the Office of Strategic Communications at Manchester University.

Pence lauds vaccine effort during stop at Ind. plant

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Vice President Mike Pence said Tuesday that he’s looking forward to getting vaccinated for COVID-19 and that he expects to receive his first dose in the next few days.

During a visit to a Calent Biologics plant in Bloomington that’s producing a vaccine developed by Moderna and the National Institutes of Health, Pence projected confidence in the nascent vaccination effort, including in the Moderna vaccine that moved to the cusp of government authorization on Tuesday.

“We have come to the beginning of the end of the coronavirus pandemic,” Pence said, a day after six workers at Fort Wayne’s Parkview Health hospital became the first people in Indiana to receive doses of another COVID-19 vaccine produced by Pfizer-BioNTech.

Pence also stressed the need for Americans to stay focused on limiting the spread of the virus before a vaccine is in widespread use. Cases and hospitalizations are continuing to rise in many parts of the country, with the U.S. COVID-19 death toll topping 300,000 on Monday.

“It’s been a marathon this year. It’s been a marathon of heartbreak for many American families,” Pence said.

By week’s end, more than 50 Indiana hospitals and clinics were expected to receive a total of 55,575 Pfizer vaccine doses as part of the largest vaccination campaign in U.S. history.

Meanwhile, the Food and Drug Administration said Tuesday that its preliminary analysis confirmed the effectiveness and safety of the vaccine developed by Moderna. A panel of outside experts is expected to recommend the formula on Thursday, with the FDA’s green light coming soon thereafter.

The state Department of Health on Tuesday added another 129 COVID-19 deaths to the state’s death toll, pushing the overall figure of confirmed or presumed coronavirus deaths to 6,968 since the start

of the pandemic. The agency also reported another 4,347 confirmed cases of the disease, bringing the pandemic total to 434,642.

A coalition of some of Indiana’s top hospital systems warned that facilities are struggling to cope with the surge in COVID-19 patients – a sobering reminder that the coronavirus is still spreading quickly in the state despite the arrival of a vaccine this week.

With COVID-19 patient numbers hovering above 3,000 for nearly a month, Indiana hospitals are treating more than four times as many as they were in September and administrators fear they soon could get overwhelmed.

“Local hospitals are fast approaching crisis,” the Indianapolis Coalition for Patient Safety, which represents several central Indiana health-system systems, said Monday in a statement.

During an online news conference Monday, members of the hospital coalition said they are nearly overwhelmed by a record number of coronavirus patients and painted a grim picture of what has been unfolding in their emergency rooms and intensive care units. They also pleaded with members of the public to continue wearing masks and socially distancing and to forgo in-person holiday gatherings.

December is typically a busy time for hospitals because of flu cases, respiratory infections and other factors. Hospital leaders said that challenge has been compounded by the coronavirus and by the large numbers of staff who are quarantining and unable to work.

Indiana University Health is treating more COVID-19 patients at its facilities than it ever has, said Dr. Michele SAYSANA, the health system’s chief quality and safety officer. If Hoosiers don’t change their behavior to reduce the virus’ spread, the situation could worsen, as any increase in COVID-19 cases seen from Thanksgiving gatherings bleeds into any surge that follows Christmas get-togethers.

Lady Squire basketball earns first conference win of the season

Manchester is back in action on Thursday

By BRIDGET NASH
Wabash Plain Dealer Freelance Reporter

On Friday, Dec. 11, Manchester High School hosted Three Rivers Conference opponent the South Whitley Lady Wildcats. The Lady Squires basketball team entered with a 4-4 record, coming off of a win against Huntington North. South Whitley entered with a 2-5 record.

The game started going back and forth for the first few minutes of the game. The Lady Squires pushed the ball through the Whitko press midway through the first quarter, with senior Eva Bazzoni scoring back-to-back lay-ups. The Squire offense continued pushing the ball on offense and grabbed a 13 to 6 lead with three minutes left in the first quarter. The Squires led 15 to 10 going into the second quarter.

The second quarter opened up with a three-pointer from Whitko freshman Kloe Krieg. The Squires answered back with a pass from junior guard Keilan Creager to junior forward Mackenzy Meyer, drawing the foul and sending Meyer to the free-throw line. The Squires grabbed back-to-back steals, making a field goal on the first and Bazzoni being sent to the free-throw line after a drive on the second. Junior Ainsley West made a three-pointer from the wing, pushing the Squire lead to 11. Whitko junior guard Kylie Fugett made a transition three to keep the Wildcats within seven points of Manchester. Strong defense from the Squires kept them ahead 31-22 at half-time.

The second half started with possessions from both teams, but Bazzoni stopped the Whitko possession early with a steal and breakaway layup, scoring the first points of the second half. Both teams remained scoreless until a clean transition press-break layup and finish by Meyer midway through the third quarter, making the score 35-22. Senior forward Morgan Parrett added a pair of baskets to the scoreboard and three offensive rebounds to keep the ball in the Squires possession at the end of the quarter. Manchester led the Wildcats 40-27 going into the fourth quarter.

The fourth quarter was full of back-and-forth play. A three-pointer from senior Emma Garriott sent the Lady Squires ahead of the Lady Wildcats 50-32. The final score of the game was 63-39, giving the Lady Squires their first conference win of the season. The Lady Squires have big goals for the season, two goals which include a conference championship and a sectional championship.

“We have to play team ball. If we keep playing like this and limiting our turnovers, finishing the easy shots, and mak-



Senior Beletu Stout, No. 23, drives to the basket in the second quarter.



Junior Keilan Creager, No. 14, shoots a three-pointer over a Whitko defender. Creager ended the game with nine points.

ing sure we’re looking for good shots than we’ll be there,” said Meyer. “We are really evolving the way we play. Our depth has grown as the season has went on and we have a great balance of skill both inside and outside,” added head coach Josh Troyer.

The stat line was spread across the team. Meyer led the team with fifteen points and seven rebounds. Parrett dom-

inated the inside game with 9 points and 11 rebounds, seven of which were offensive boards. Creager, Bazzoni and West contributed also nine points each. Manchester is back in action on Thursday against TRC opponent Southwood High School.

Bridget Nash, Wabash Plain Dealer freelance reporter, may be reached by email at sports@wabashplaindealer.com.

Indiana-Purdue, Michigan-Iowa canceled

By MICHAEL MAROT
Associated Press

Two of the seven Big Ten Champions Week games were canceled Tuesday because of COVID-19 outbreaks as an uncertain postseason looms for college football.

The annual rivalry game between Indiana and Purdue set for Friday was canceled for the second time in two weeks and the third time this season. Michigan’s game at No. 18 Iowa on Saturday also was canceled, the third straight Wolverines game to be called off.

Athletic directors Scott Dolson of Indiana and Mike Bobinski of Purdue acknowledged the history and tradition of playing for the Old Oaken Bucket. “Both universities worked extremely hard in an effort to play,” they said, “but at this time it just isn’t possible.” The final month of the season, including bowl games, is already being affected by the pandemic, just as the regular season was. Approximately 125 games since late August have been postponed or canceled, including the Frisco Bowl scheduled for Saturday.

SMU had to withdraw from the game about 25 miles from its Dallas campus and its opponent, UTSA, is switching to the First Responders Bowl Dec. 26 against a team to be determined. In Indiana, the cancellation came just as the Boilermakers (2-4) appeared ready to resume football activities after pausing them a week ago on the same day Indiana took the same step. It’s unclear whether the cancellation will end a bizarre year which began with Purdue coach Jeff Brohm missing the season open-

er after testing positive for COVID-19. “We’re not looking down that road,” Brohm said Monday when asked whether Purdue might be interested in playing in a bowl since there is no minimum number of wins needed this season. The cancellation was a dismaying blow to the Hoosiers (6-1), who are having one of their best seasons in decades. The Hoosiers haven’t won a bowl game since 1991 and coach Tom Allen believes that would be a good way to wrap up a historic season.

Taylor’s growth could help Colts finish strong

By MICHAEL MAROT
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Jonathan Taylor figured it out.

When the rookie running back got his timing down, his confidence and productivity soared. Now, Taylor is playing like the workhorse back the Indianapolis Colts need during this season’s stretch run.

All it took was a little time to understand the distinctions between working from a shotgun formation instead of the more conventional pro-style offense he played in at Wisconsin, and Taylor was off and running.

“Things are a little quicker in the shotgun with your reads,” Taylor said after rushing for a season-high

150 yards and two scores in Sunday’s crucial victory at Las Vegas. “Different plays require different timing and that was one of the biggest things I had to learn, realizing the different timings you had on different things from the gun.” The Colts (9-4) never doubted Taylor would reach this point. From the moment he arrived at training camp, Indy knew it had a gem behind Marlon Mack. But when Mack tore his right Achilles tendon in the season opener, Taylor inherited the starting job. Initially, he showed flashes of his potential, but as the season wore on Taylor’s consistency and touches waned. Three weeks ago, coach Frank Reich gave Taylor a

fresh start. He hasn’t disappointed. The former Badgers star delivered with a 22-carry, 90-yard game against Green Bay. Then Taylor had 13 carries for 91 yards and three receptions for 44 yards and one TD at Houston. On Sunday, he swung the game with TD runs of 62 and 3 yards, keeping Indy atop the AFC South with Tennessee after three straight wins. “He’s a blue-collar guy, and I think that’s why you continue to see him improving,” left tackle Anthony Castonzo said. “He gets it. You can see it. When he really gets it and sees those holes, he’s going to be a force to be reckoned with.” Taylor already ranks among the franchise’s most

productive rookie backs. Through 13 games, he has 1,045 yards from scrimmage and needs 241 yards rushing to become the Colts’ first rookie to run for 1,000 since Joseph Addai in 2006. And after watching the ground game struggle for most of this season, Taylor has the Colts ready to show their finishing kick. “We just kept saying, ‘Guys be patient, we’re getting better, we are doing the little things right. We’re not reaping all the benefits now, but just stick with it,’” Reich said. “We talked a lot about that as an offense, that we will be ascending at just the right time. Jonathan is a big part of that with the way he’s seeing it and running it.”

SCOREBOARD

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Indiana Boys Basketball Poll CLASS 4A									
	W-L	Pts	Prv						
1. Lawrence North (7)	3-0	248	1						
2. Carmel (5)	4-0	240	2						
3. Homestead (1)	5-0	190	3						
4. Indianapolis Attucks	6-0	180	4						
5. Lafayette Jeff	6-0	131	6						
6. Indpls Cathedral	4-1	118	5						
7. Westfield	3-0	116	10						
8. Munster	0-0	76	8						
9. S. Bend Adams	3-0	61	NR						
10. Fishers	2-0	45	NR						
Others receiving votes: Brownsburg 37, S. Bend Riley 23, Warren Central 20, Bloomington North 15, Columbus North 15, Zionsville 10, Michigan City 9, New Albany 7, Plainfield 7, Indpls Pike 6, Gary West 6.									
CLASS 3A									
	W-L	Pts	Prv						
1. Heritage Hills (10)	4-0	240	2						
2. Ev. Bosse	2-0	204	3						
3. Silver Creek	3-2	177	1						
4. Hammond (3)	2-1	169	4						
5. Greensburg	2-0	166	8						
6. S. Bend St. Joseph's	2-1	148	5						
7. Mishawaka Marian	3-1	101	9						
8. Danville	0-0	90	7						
9. Delta	3-0	76	10						
10. Sullivan	3-0	60	NR						
Others receiving votes: Indpls Brebeuf 48, Leo 31, N. Harrison 20, Beech Grove 16, Western 14.									
CLASS 2A									
	W-L	Pts	Prv						
1. Ft. Wayne Blackhawk (13)	4-0	260	1						
2. Linton-Stockton	4-0	218	2						
3. Blackford	3-0	198	3						
4. S. Spencer	6-0	178	5						
5. Shenandoah	3-0	174	4						
6. Indpls Covenant Christian	3-0	103	8						
7. Westview	4-1	101	7						
8. Parke Heritage	4-1	70	NR						
9. Southwestern (Jefferson)	4-0	63	NR						
10. Central Noble	2-1	51	6						
Others receiving votes: Andean 48, Ev. Mater Dei 22, University 20, S. Decatur 18, Rossville 15, Northeastern 8, Madison-Grant 7, Heritage Christian 6.									
CLASS 1A									
	W-L	Pts	Prv						
1. Barr-Reeve (12)	4-0	258	1						
2. Kouts (1)	6-0	234	2						
3. Bloomfield	3-0	168	5						
4. Loogootee	4-1	167	3						
5. Covington	1-1	135	4						
6. Morristown	1-0	133	6						
7. Edinburg	5-0	99	NR						
8. N. Daviess	3-0	86	10						
9. Lafayette Catholic	2-2	63	7						
10. Gary 21st Century	1-2	61	8						
Others receiving votes: Christian Academy 58, Greenwood Christian 32, W. Washington 21, Tindley 13, Ev. Christian 10, Providence Cristo Rey 8, Lanesville 8, Covenant Christian (DeMotte) 6.									

Miami	7	2	309	246	8	2	340	260
NC State	7	3	327	313	8	3	342	327
North Carolina	7	3	424	303	8	3	473	312
Boston College	5	5	282	291	6	5	306	312
Pittsburgh	5	5	264	270	6	5	319	270
Virginia Tech	5	5	307	315	5	5	342	353
Virginia	4	5	252	281	5	5	297	296
Wake Forest	3	4	230	239	4	4	296	253
Georgia Tech	3	6	218	319	3	7	239	368
Louisville	3	7	290	272	4	7	325	293
Florida St.	2	6	191	300	3	6	232	324
Duke	1	9	220	400	2	9	273	419
Syracuse	1	9	175	322	1	10	196	360

BIG TEN CONFERENCE

East									
Conference	All Games	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Ohio St.	5	0	233	116	5	0	233	116	
Indiana	6	1	211	136	6	1	211	136	
Maryland	2	3	118	160	2	3	118	160	
Penn St.	3	5	212	228	3	5	212	228	
Rutgers	3	5	219	261	3	5	219	261	
Michigan	2	4	170	207	2	4	170	207	
Michigan St.	2	5	126	246	2	5	126	246	
West									
Conference	All Games	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Northwestern	6	1	177	102	6	1	177	102	
Iowa	6	2	254	128	6	2	254	128	
Minnesota	3	3	174	191	3	3	174	191	
Wisconsin	2	3	114	77	2	3	114	77	
Purdue	2	4	163	179	2	4	163	179	
Illinois	2	5	140	223	2	5	140	223	
Nebraska	2	5	157	214	2	5	157	214	

MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East									
Conference	All Games	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Buffalo	5	0	259	105	5	0	259	105	
Kent St.	3	1	199	152	3	1	199	152	
Miami (Ohio)	2	1	86	80	2	1	86	80	
Ohio	2	1	103	50	2	1	103	50	
Akron	1	5	103	248	1	5	103	248	
Bowling Green	0	5	57	225	0	5	57	225	
West									
Conference	All Games	W	L	PF	PA	W	L	PF	PA
Ball St.	5	1	202	165	5	1	202	165	
Toledo	4	2	210	146	4	2	210	146	
W. Michigan	4	2	250	205	4	2	250	205	
Cent. Michigan	3	3	188	181	3	3	188	181	
E. Michigan	2	4	199	216	2	4	199	216	
N. Illinois	0	6	149	232	0	6	149	232	

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE									
East									
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	W	L	T	Pct
Buffalo	10	3	0	.769	359	321			
Miami	8	5	0	.615	330	245			
New England	6	7	0	.462	277	279			
N.Y. Jets	0	13	0	.000	183	393			
South									
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	W	L	T	Pct
Indianapolis	9	4	0	.692	372	300			
Tennessee	9	4	0	.692	390	336			
Houston	4	9	0	.308	295	359			
Jacksonville	1	12	0	.077	261	383			
North									
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	W	L	T	Pct
x-Pittsburgh	11	2	0	.846	349	237			
Cleveland	9	4	0	.692	348	368			
Baltimore	8	5	0	.615	363	273			
Cincinnati	2	10	1	.192	244	338			
West									
W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	W	L	T	Pct
yx-Kansas City	12	1	0	.923	403	281			
Las Vegas	7	6	0	.538	350	391			
Denver	5	8	0	.385	257	347			
L.A. Chargers	4	9	0	.308	297	362			

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Washington	6	7	0	.462	287	275
N.Y. Giants	5	8	0	.385	238	291
Phila.	4	8	1	.346	277	322
Dallas	4	9	0	.308	298	400
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New Orleans	10	3	0	.769	368	266
Tampa Bay	8	5	0	.615	307	291
Atlanta	4	9	0	.308	328	322
Carolina	4	9	0	.308	307	333
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
yx-Chicago Bay	10	3	0	.769	410	322
Green	6	7	0	.462	282	299
Minnesota	6	7	0	.462	333	355
Detroit	5	8	0	.385	310	388
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
A.L. Rams	9	4	0	.692	325	244
Seattle	9	4	0	.692	393	322
Arizona	7	6	0	.538	358	300
San Francisco	5	8	0	.385	300	311
x-cinched playoff spot						
y-cinched division						

Living with ex-husband goes from bad to worse

DEAR ABBY: Although I have been divorced from my ex for eight years, we still live together. There is not – nor will there ever be – more than a platonic relationship between us, and I have made that abundantly clear to him.

Dear Abby



It wasn't always a bad situation, but now it's worse than I could have ever imagined it would be. He drinks heavily on a daily basis and becomes verbally abusive. He has a woman over a lot, and I can't sleep when she's here.

She's a drunk, too, and she also abuses her prescription medications. At least half the time when she's here, I have to lift her passed-out body off the floor and drag her off to his bedroom. She steals money, cigarettes, food and booze all the time.

He dismisses me when I bring up her behavior. He tells me to shut up or get out. I pay for everything except the rent and homeowner's insurance. Cable, electric, oil, propane and groceries are my responsibility. I also do all the inside and outside chores. I earn less than he does, but I pay more than he does.

He tells me what to eat and who I can talk to. I can't have company. Yet he wants to know why I'm not dating. I can't save any money so I can get out. I'm stuck, and he knows it. What do I do? – Horrible Situation In Maine

DEAR HORRIBLE SITUATION: You owe this man nothing. You are being treated like a serf, and it has been going on far too long. If you have family or friends you can stay with until you save enough for a place of your own, start asking now. That should enable you to save more money because you won't be paying for cable, electricity, propane, etc. for your ex.

P.S. When the girlfriend passes out, do not lift or drag her anywhere. That is your ex's privilege and not your responsibility. With the load you're already carrying, the last thing you need is a strained back.

DEAR ABBY: I am at high risk for COVID. My oldest son and his family live an hour and a half away. They have two children at home. Their daughter is also at high risk.

During this pandemic, they have continually posted photos of themselves and the kids maskless with friends, hugging each other and acting as if life is normal. My daughter-in-law has told me she's "scared" and does the "wear a mask" thing and shares routine online posts, etc., yet she continues having people over.

In normal circumstances, it's difficult for me to visit. I want to visit them, but every time I consider it, I see them on social media with someone else, sans mask and no social distancing. I'm sure they would say their friends are all healthy, but none of us can know for certain who their friends have been around. It's like dominoes, and it's scary.

I don't know how to explain this to them because I know they will feel I'm being ridiculous. Also, my DIL is super sensitive and would be hurt and insulted. I love them. I don't want to alienate them. I'm ready to just take my chances, although my other daughter is against it. What should I do? – Cautious In New York

DEAR CAUTIOUS: Many people have grown complacent about mask wearing and social distancing. That's unfortunate because, as I write this, "mask fatigue" has led to an increase in the number of people testing positive for the virus. Your concerns are valid, and I hope you will stick to your guns. As a member of a high-risk group, your life could depend on it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Raw-fish delicacy

6 Made bales

11 Wheel or bottle

12 Japanese theater

13 Traffic no-no's (hyph.)

14 Corridors

15 Becomes fatigued

16 Pita sandwich

17 "Orinoco Flow" singer

18 Not hers

19 Zest

23 Ukraine capital

25 Cordon —

26 Narcissus' flaw

29 Family member

32 Period

33 Hit heavy seas

34 Fad

35 Musical scale note

36 Sprints

38 Become conscious

40 "What — can I say?"

DOWN

1 Wedding-dress fabric

2 Loan-sharking

3 Unbroken string

4 Farm flappers

5 1040 agcy.

6 Bristle

7 Soak up

8 "The King and I" name

9 Make ends meet

10 Put down, slangily

Answer to Previous Puzzle

M	A	V	E	L	A	N	Z	E	A	L
I	C	E	N	O	D	E	I	N	C	A
N	O	G	J	O	S	E	L	O	C	K
C	R	A	Y	O	N	D	I	L	U	T
E	N	N	U	I	S	S	N			
			K	N	I	G	H	T		
A	U	T	O	F	R	I	D	E	K	E
S	T	A	N	S	I	C	A	S	S	T
H	E	X		C	O	N	K	E	D	
		A	R	C		A	D	A	G	E
R	E	T	A	I	L		F	R	I	E
A	L	I	T		U	P	O	N		S
F	L	O	E		S	I	R	E		O
T	E	N	D		H	E	A	D		P

11 Charmingly attractive

12 Boyle and Kyser

16 Freebie

18 Whodunit suspect

20 Seine aits

21 Despot

22 Like some controls

24 Business abbr.

26 Bronte governess

27 France, long ago

28 Pays for

30 Movie mogul

31 Cartoon mice — and Meek

37 Evening-gown glitter

39 Breathe out

41 Toronto Blue —

43 Free-for-all

44 Correct a text

45 Fit together

47 Victorian coiffure

48 The one over there

49 Law (abbr.)

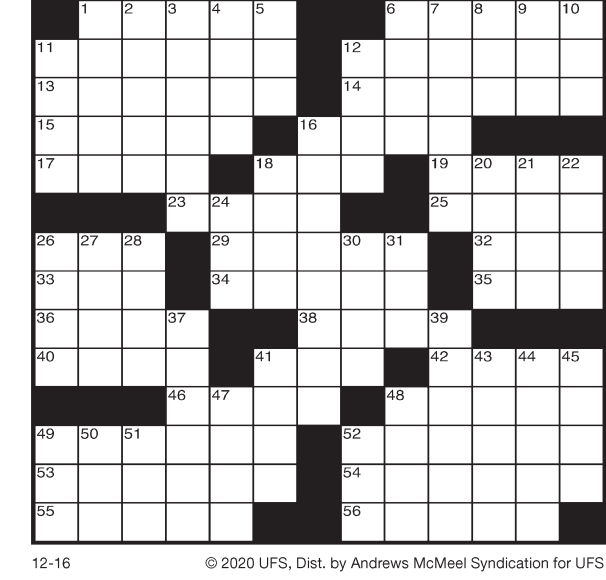
50 Auto

51 Audit ace

52 Ave. crossers

12-16

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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

3	9		6	4	7			
2	1		5					7
	4	7		2				3
5					2			
		9		3		2		
			1					3
	8			6		3	5	
	6				5		8	9
			8	7	4		6	2

12/16

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

1	8	7	2	4	6	9	5	3
2	6	3	8	9	5	7	4	1
4	9	5	1	7	3	2	6	8
8	5	2	3	1	4	6	7	9
6	1	9	7	8	2	4	3	5
3	7	4	5	6	9	8	1	2
9	3	1	4	2	7	5	8	6
7	2	8	6	5	1	3	9	4
5	4	6	9	3	8	1	2	7

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

IFSTH

NUMDO

PSOOEP

TMVIEO

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Sounds like the bulls want to be fed.

I think it's the cows that are talking. They're all hungry, though.

12/16

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SOUNDS MADE BY THE COWS AND THE BULLS WAS A ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here:

“ ”

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's

Jumbles: PLUCK DIMLY IODINE FLAVOR

Answer: After "Time" magazine debuted in 1923, new issues were printed — PERIODICALLY

THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

12-16

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Dist. by King Features Synd.
www.familycircus.com

"Looks like Joan and Bud... or Jean and Burl... or it that Jim and Bill?"

BEEBLE BAILEY

I'M THINKING OF RUNNING FOR OFFICE SOMEDAY

FASCINATING. WHAT OFFICE?

THE GENERAL'S

GEN HALFT

BLONDIE

SURPRISE! HERE'S YOUR CHRISTMAS BONUS!

REALLY?

A CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT THAT LOOKS LIKE YOU?

AMAZING, ISN'T IT? YOU'RE WELCOME

IN A WEIRD WAY, IT'S KINDA CUTE

LET'S TURN IT AROUND! IT'S GIVING ME THE CREEPS!

HI & LOIS

WHAT IS GOING ON IN THERE?

HO HO HO HA HA HA

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

HA

SANTA HAS A SHAVING CREAM BEARD.

HA

BC

YOU SEE HIM? THAT'S ME WITHOUT MY SHELL!

IN YOUR DREAMS.

WIZARD OF ID

YOU KNOW WHAT, SIRE? YOU ONLY LIVE ONCE... LET'S HIT THAT THING!

YOLO

STATE YOUR BUSINESS, PEASANT

DILBERT

TODAY IS YOUR LAST DAY WITH THE COMPANY, TED. SO I NEED YOUR COMPANY LAPTOP BACK.

OR ELSE WHAT? YOU'LL FIRE ME TWICE?

LET'S SAY YOU'RE NOT OFFICIALLY FIRED UNTIL YOU RETURN THE LAPTOP.

AND IF I DON'T BRING IT BACK, WILL I NEVER BE FIRED?

UM...

GARFIELD

Dear Santa, I would like a personal chef for Christmas.

TIC TIC TIC

An Italian, who can make a killer lasagna.

TIC TIC TIC TIC

HEY, IF YOU DON'T ASK, YOU WON'T GET!

12-16

FORT KNOX

WHAT DO YOU DO AS THE SENIOR CENTER'S SANTA?

LET SENIORS SIT ON MY LAP AND TELL ME WHAT THEY WANT.

WHAT DO THEY USUALLY ASK FOR?

NEW HIPS.

PICKLES

GRAMPA, WHY IS YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE UPSIDE DOWN?

12/16

WELL, WE DID IT TO SYMBOLIZE THE CRAZY TOPSY-TURVY YEAR THIS HAS BEEN.

CRASH!

YEAH, THAT KIND OF SAYS IT ALL.

Drunkenness is a sin and must be treated that way

From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

Q: My new year's resolution months ago was to get off alcohol. Then the pandemic hit and I lost my job and was forced to quarantine inside my small apartment for months. I have to be honest, I renewed my friendship with drink, and now I am experiencing many problems because of alcohol abuse. Recently a neighbor led me to the Lord and I have a renewed sense of hope. Can Jesus really help me? — B.A.

A: Jesus Christ is not only the hope of the world. He is the hope of every person ever born. Many alcoholics have been converted to Jesus Christ and have been completely delivered from the terrible craving that they have had for many years.

Those who know something about alcoholism tell us that the first step toward deliverance is to have a strong desire to change and to verbally admit that they are an alcoholic. In saying this, they have stated a tremendous truth, for you can never be saved from your sins until you first of all admit, "I am a sinner," and then have a desire to give up your life and let God take control. Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

Drunkenness is a sin, according to the Bible, and must be treated that way. It can lead to a sickness, of course, as it did with WWII veteran and Olympic athlete Louis Zamperini, whose remarkable life was featured in the film Unbroken and his testimony declared on a DVD Captured by Grace. Louie talked frequently about his battle with alcohol and depression. That is until he encountered the life-transforming power of Jesus Christ. He is the transformer of hearts. Never give up. God is ever-present.

CELEBRITY CIPHER
by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

"PYA LCH KOHG KAZ HOFON KNOCU DO / 'LCAEO XZ YHSP EONFOE ZY DCUO DO / DYNO GOZONDHXOG ZY CLMXOFO DP JXHCS TYCS." — MOSOH NOGGP

Previous Solution: "The most important thing is to try and inspire people so that they can be great in whatever they want to do." — Kobe Bryant

TODAY'S CLUE: 7 sje#nb S

Opinion

SPEAK UP

How to contact your legislators:

U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.
B33 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
1-202-224-5623
http://young.senate.gov/contact

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.
B85 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
202-224-4814
http://braun.senate.gov/

U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2
419 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
202-225-3915

State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17
Indiana Senate
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9467
Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

State Rep. David Wolkins, R-District 18
Indiana House
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9841
h18@in.gov

To email any Indiana lawmaker, go to this website:
www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl

LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to news@wabashplaindealer.com with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.

DAILY SCRIPTURE

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Hebrews 13:16

Trump’s court won’t join his coup

President Trump and his enablers have left many of our governing principles for dead over the past four years, but they saved the worst for last.

The president’s decisive electoral defeat a month ago ushered in a direct assault on the constitutionally ordained means by which the people have given power to him and every other occupant of the office and, in the case of Trump and his fellow one-termers, taken it away. Worse, a substantial share of our top democratically elected officials have tacitly or actively supported this anti-democratic project even as the courts have unanimously found it meritless – up to and including the nation’s highest court, which rejected Trump’s efforts out of hand for the second time in a week Friday.

The barest facet of Trump’s attempted coup has been his brazen but largely unsuccessful bullying of Republican state officials. The president has personally lobbied Georgia’s governor, Pennsylvania’s legislators, election officials in Wayne County, Michigan, and others to overstep their authority and overturn the results of free and fair elections in battleground states he lost.

The president’s myriad legal challenges to the results in half a dozen such states, by

contrast, had at least a veneer of legitimacy. Election results can and have been appropriately challenged in court, after all. But the complaints’ quantity and quality – the former overflowing and the latter vanishing – have stretched the bounds of reasonable challenges to the electoral process, as evidenced by their unanimous and vehement rejection by judges from an array of jurisdictions and backgrounds. The president’s team has lost over 35 cases in an array of state and federal courts, suffering legal defeats in the supreme courts of Arizona, Michigan, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and the United States.

Now, on the eve of an Electoral College vote that will put Joe Biden’s victory even further beyond challenge, the U.S. Supreme Court has declined to consider a complaint that distilled the deficiencies of Trump’s broader claims.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who has been indicted on state securities fraud charges and is reportedly under federal investigation, filed the lawsuit directly with the high court based on its original jurisdiction over disputes between states. Based on warmed-over and debunked claims of widespread voter fraud, Paxton’s complaint asked the court to invalidate the electoral votes of four oth-

er states – Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin – and hand the election to Trump. As Georgia’s Republican attorney general, Chris Carr, wrote in response, “Texas ... asks this Court to transfer Georgia’s electoral powers to the federal judiciary.”

Given questions about Texas’ lack of standing to file such a suit and the appropriateness of doing so directly to the high court, the justices didn’t have to address the non-existent merits of the case or the absurd remedy it sought, finding simply that the state had “not demonstrated a judicially cognizable interest in the manner in which another State conducts its elections.” That echoed the court’s terse rejection Tuesday of a separate case brought by Pennsylvania Republicans.

Sadly, the legal, ethical and constitutional bankruptcy of the case did not prevent it from being backed by a majority of House Republicans, including House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy of Bakersfield, along with 18 states – 20 if one counts the fake states of “New California” and “New Nevada,” in whose name another amicus brief was filed. Trump and company’s losing legal and political fight is nearly over; the consequences remain.

The editorial was first published in the San Francisco Chronicle.



How to stop worrying about national politics

Allow me to share a mental exercise I use to think through the relative concern we should place on different levels of government. Along the way, this helps me relax more about our current state of politics and focus on what it important.

This begins with a conceptual exercise. Choose the dozen best-known mayors in your state. Now list their five most important policy achievements while in office. These will inevitably be about how they’ve handled



Michael Hicks

roads, crime, zoning rules, a bad snow storm or flood, the quality of parks, or government transparency. For some, there might be a funding crisis, for others it would be their relationship with the local schools, other regional governments or large employers. There’s a lot more to being a mayor, but you get my gist – there are many different challenges to municipal leadership, but most involve practical matters.

Now, suppose you submitted an anonymous list of these actions to a group of distinguished political scientists. I feel certain they could not guess whether these mayors were Republicans or Democrats. Local government requires pragmatic competence, not ideological showmanship.

The next step in the mental exercise is to choose the best-known dozen state legislators. List the policies they have supported. I am sure that hypothetical group of political scientists and I would bet that at least half could be identified by party.

Now, do the same thing for the dozen best-known members of Congress or Senators in the country. Listing their policy ideas will make clear to anyone which party they belong to. There is no need to consult the political science professors.

There are some lessons and some limitations to this mental exercise. First, the limitation. I started with mayors, who are

part of the executive branch, and then turned to legislators. Clearly, the roles are different, but I don’t think most Americans can name a single city council member. That is not a bad thing. City council members mostly focus on the same pragmatic solutions to the same real problems that trouble mayors (e.g. potholes, armed robbery, congestion). Attending to this work doesn’t make you famous, but it sure can make you city better.

The important lesson is that the farther a politician gets away from solving real problems, the more ideological they become and so more obviously a member of a political party. Being part of a political party or being ideological can be a good thing, or at least that is how the world’s most successful nation has run its affairs for 244 years. But, it might also be too much of a good thing when immediate, non-partisan problems arise.

Focusing attention on the ideological debate between national party leaders can be entertaining, and some people are well-suited to that stage. But, if you care about policies that affect the value of your home or the likelihood that your kids will get a quality education, you should be concentrating more attention locally. Even a deep interest in larger issues, like economic inequality or racial justice, should cause you to turn your focus towards local institutions of government and civic life. Here are some examples.

The federal government has almost no meaningful role in public schools. Moreover, funding and regulatory differences between presidential administrations are highly exaggerated. Lots of folks complain about Betsy DeVos, or the Obama school lunch mandates, or Bush’s No Child Left Behind. But, for almost two decades across three very different presidencies, the actual changes to federal rules for schools are virtually meaningless.

In contrast, the actions your local school board takes has huge influence on the local economy and the quality of education. High-quality schools attract

new families and boost home prices by as much as 30 percent. Low-quality public schools lose students and depress home values. Now, I know that education officials argue incessantly about what constitutes a good school, but families seem not to have much trouble in deciding.

If you want to affect education and school performance, the place to start is at school board meetings. If you are satisfied with their work, then maybe you can move on to the state legislature. Nothing that happens in Congress will ever make as much difference in your local school as would a strong school board, effective PTO and a small group of interested, supporting parents.

The school example is just the start. If you care about parks, then it is the local ones you can most readily influence. Most of the differences in road quality comes down to how well your municipal or county government operates, not the nuance of a federal highway bill.

If you are worried about better policing, that is not a national issue. The U.S. government doesn’t enforce state or local laws. It doesn’t even really have a police force. There aren’t enough FBI special agents to assign one to every American police department. Again, the quickest way to have a voice on these issues is simply to attend city council meetings.

None of this is an argument against a bit of self-education about our federal or state governments, or against partisan politics. These are all important parts of our glorious Republic. Rather, I just want to emphasize that the easiest, quickest and most meaningful path to improving policies that affect our lives and livelihoods start with our neighbors who serve in our local government. What you are most likely to find there will be a refreshing vacation from national party politics.

Michael J. Hicks, PhD, is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and the George and Frances Ball distinguished professor of economics in the Miller College of Business at Ball State University.

Chanukah, Christmas, Western civilization

By RICHARD MOSS

Chanukah, the festival of lights, is a Jewish holiday that commemorates the victory of the Maccabees (or Hasmoneans) over the powerful armies of the Seleucid (Greek) Empire under King Antiochus IV. King Antiochus, in 167 BC, in a show of force, forbade important Jewish observances such as keeping the Sabbath and circumcision and dedicated the ancient temple in Jerusalem to Zeus.

In the town of Modi’in, Antiochus’ soldiers forced a village elder named Matityahu to sacrifice a pig before a pagan altar. Matityahu refused. When another Jew complied, he killed him and another Greek official. This sparked a three-year rebellion against the Greeks and their Jewish allies, some of whom accepted Greek or Hellenic culture. Matityahu and his sons, the Maccabees, fought to maintain the ancient ways of the covenant. At first, the Maccabees and their motley fighters employed guerilla tactics but eventually formed regular forces and routed the Greeks. In 164 BC, the Maccabees entered Jerusalem and rededicated the temple, removing pagan influences, thus the name “Chanukah” or rededication.

It was a most unlikely victory. But because of it Judaism survived. Without this victory, history would have been profoundly altered. In the absence of Judaism, Christianity, which followed more than a century later, would never have emerged.

Chanukah is a victory of religious liberty, of the weak over the strong, of righteousness over tyranny, of light over darkness, a miracle. But there was another miracle. Jewish tradition holds that when it was time to light the Menorah in the Temple, there was only enough pure oil for a single day, but it lasted eight days after which it was replenished. And the men that had been soldiers and were now priests and scribes knew that their victory over the mighty Greek army was not just by force of arms but through divine providence, that God walked among the defenders of Judaism.

After the Greeks fell away, there was a brief interlude of Jewish independence in Israel but then the Romans conquered the Holy Land in 63 BC (Pompey). Life under Roman rule was difficult and there was another rebellion in 70 AD. General Vespasian destroyed the Jewish kingdom and King David’s ancient capitol fell for a second time. Many Jews died or were enslaved. There rose again a savior in 135 AD, Bar Kochba, but in the end his rebellion too crumbled before Rome’s might (Emperor Hadrian). Jerusalem and the Temple were ploughed under with salt and hundreds of thousands of Jews were slaughtered. Jerusalem was resettled. Rome renamed Israel, Palestina, reaching back to Israel’s ancient foes the Philistines to conceal its Jewish past. The exiles went forth as slaves and rootless wanderers. And the long night began.

But the Chanukah flame continued to burn in the hearts of the Jewish people who dreamed of returning to Israel and Jerusalem. For 2,000 years it burned in villages and cities across the seas and the continents. And the exiles returned to reclaim their patrimony. In 1948, out of the ashes of the Holocaust, the modern state of Israel was born, its fledgling forces defeating the five Arab armies that attacked it at the moment of its birth with the intent of annihilation – another miracle. And so the Chanukah lights continued to burn in Israel, sometimes flickering but still illuminating, nearly 70 years later.

With Christmas upon us, there is also a light that burns for Christians, under assault in the West by the secular left and around the globe especially within the Muslim world. It is symbolic that in the darkest time of the year, Christian teaching tells that the logos or the word was made flesh in the form of a newborn baby, the baby Jesus, a Jew, under a star, a light for the world to drive away the darkness and bring redemption and hope.

That Chanukah and Christmas are closely linked in the calendar is fitting for the message they each bring. The two faiths, Judaism and Christianity, taken together as the Judeo-Christian tradition, is the foundation of Western and American civilization. Western nations are the greatest in the world because they are informed by Judeo-Christian principles. It is in the West where human rights, liberty, the rule of law, democracy, music and the arts, science and technology have flourished and where slavery was ended. These are the nations that inhabitants from the rest of the world seek to live. It is in Western nations where citizens are most free and enjoy the greatest prosperity. It is not an accident.

We must dedicate ourselves to preserving America, the West and Western civilization, by preserving its Judeo-Christian tradition. The light of Chanukah and Christmas must continue to burn, and illumine the night, pushing away the darkness that is always present, the norm for most of history. They should guide us and our nation and the West for all time. It distinguishes us from the rest: our values, our devotion to truth, knowledge, goodness, beauty, and reason, the belief in the sanctity of the individual made in the image of God, while rejecting the moral and cultural relativism of the post-modern left and the totalitarian threat of unreformed Islam. We must rededicate ourselves in our current battle as the Maccabees did against the Greeks and as Israel did against the Arab armies that sought its destruction in 1948 and has done ever since against its many enemies.

The spirit of Chanukah and Christmas should inspire us. Happy Chanukah and Merry Christmas to all.

Richard Moss, M.D., a surgeon practicing in Jasper, Indiana, was a candidate for Congress in 2016 and 2018. He has written “A Surgeon’s Odyssey” and “Matilda’s Triumph,” available on amazon.com. Contact him at richardmossmd.com or Richard Moss, M.D. on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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AP sources: Biden to pick Buttigieg as transportation chief

By MICHAEL BALSAMO, JONATHAN LEMIRE and THOMAS BEAUMONT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President-elect Joe Biden is expected to pick his former rival Pete Buttigieg as secretary of transportation, according to three people familiar with the plans.

The decision leaves the former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, poised to become the first openly gay person confirmed by the Senate to a Cabinet post. At 38, Buttigieg would also add a youthful dynamic to an incoming administration that is so far dominated in large part by leaders with decades of Washington experience.

Buttigieg became a leading figure in national politics when he was among those who challenged Biden for the Democratic presidential nomination this year. Initially written off as the leader of a relatively small town competing against far more established figures, Buttigieg zeroed in on a message of generational change to finish the first-in-the-nation Iowa caucuses in a virtual tie with Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

His campaign stumbled, however, in appealing to Black voters who play a critical role in Democratic politics. As the primary moved into more diverse states such as South Carolina, Buttigieg faltered and quickly withdrew from the race. His backing of Biden ushered in a remarkably swift unification of the party around its ultimate nominee.

The three people confirmed Buttigieg’s expected nomination to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they didn’t want to publicly preempt the president-elect’s announcement.

LGBTQ rights groups immediately spoke out in praise of Biden’s selection of Buttigieg.

“Pete’s nomination is a new milestone in a decades-long effort to ensure LGBTQ people are represented throughout our government – and

its impact will reverberate well-beyond the department he will lead,” said Annise Parker, president and CEO of the LGBTQ Victory Institute. “It distances our nation from a troubled legacy of barring out LGBTQ people from government positions and moves us closer to the President-elect’s vision of a government that reflects America.”

The South Bend chapter of Black Lives Matter, however, denounced Buttigieg’s impending nomination. The group had made their displeasure of Buttigieg known during his presidential campaign, following the 2019 South Bend shooting of a Black man by a white police officer.

“We saw Black communities have their houses torn down by his administration,” BLM’s South Bend leader Jorden Giger said in a statement, referring to Buttigieg’s effort to tear down substandard housing. “We saw the machinery of his police turned against Black people.”

It’s long been clear that Biden would find some role for Buttigieg in his administration. The two became close during the primary, chatting before debates and other campaign events.

Biden has said that Buttigieg reminds him of his late son, Beau, who was Delaware’s attorney general before dying from brain cancer at 46 in 2015.

“To me, it’s the highest compliment I can give any man or woman,” Biden said in March as Buttigieg offered his endorsement. “Like Beau, he has a backbone like a ramrod.”

Now Buttigieg will play a central role in shaping some of Biden’s leading policy priorities.

Biden has pledged to spend billions making major infrastructure improvements and on retrofitting initiatives that can help the U.S. battle climate change. He also wants to immediately mandate mask-wearing on airplanes and public transportation systems to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Turning the page? Republicans acknowledge Biden’s victory

By WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — More than a month after the election, top Republicans finally acknowledged Joe Biden as the next U.S. president on Tuesday, a collapse in GOP resistance to the millions of voters who decisively chose the Democrat. Foreign leaders joined the parade, too, including Russia’s Vladimir Putin.

Speaking from the floor of the U.S. Senate where Biden spent 36 years of his career, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell congratulated his former colleague as president-elect. The two men spoke later in the day.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, meanwhile, was to meet with his likely successor in the new administration, Antony Blinken. And GOP Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, one of President Donald Trump’s closest allies, said he’d spoken with some of Biden’s Cabinet picks.

A similar shift unfolded in capitals across the world, where leaders including Russia’s Putin and Mexico’s Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador acknowledged Biden’s win.

The moves come a day after electors nationwide formally cast votes affirming Biden’s victory in last month’s presidential election. And while that clears a more stable path for Biden to assume the presidency, it does little to stop Trump from continuing to try to undermine confidence in the results with baseless allegations that have been rejected by judges across political spectrum.

As Republicans began discussing a Biden presidency more openly on Tuesday, Trump still pledged to press forward with almost nonexistent legal options.

“Tremendous evidence pouring in on voter fraud. There has never been anything like this in our Country!” Trump tweeted just as members of his party were publicly recognizing Biden’s victory.

The growing acknowledgment of reality in Washington was triggered by the Electoral College formally voting on Monday to seal Biden’s win with 306 votes to Trump’s 232, the same margin that Trump pulled together four years ago. The normally humdrum political ceremony didn’t change the facts of the election, but was nonetheless used as political cover by leading Republicans.

“Many of us had hoped the presidential election would yield a different result,” McConnell said. “But our system of government has the processes to determine who will be sworn in on Jan. 20. The Electoral College has spoken.”

The bureaucratic transition from Trump’s government to Biden’s actually began weeks ago, despite the president’s legal challenges. Still, the suddenly conciliatory stance from many Republicans could thaw the political deep freeze that has gripped Washington lately.

Biden has been trying to build momentum as he prepares to assume the presidency while facing the historic challenge of vaccinating hundreds of millions of Americans against the coronavirus. In some of his most forceful remarks since the election, Biden is calling for unity but also calling Trump’s attacks on the voting process “unconscionable” and insisting it is time to “turn the page.”

“We need to work together, give each other a chance, and lower the temperature,” Biden said in a speech Monday.

Still, the shift coming so late in the tone from Republicans has left the president-elect with barely a month to finish building out key parts his new govern-

ment. Some say the GOP about-face won’t mean much at this point.

“Even them doing this now, the damage has been done because they’ve blocked, they’ve interrupted,” said Anthony Robinson, a former Obama administration appointee who served several national security policy roles including during the transition to the Trump administration in 2016.

“I don’t want to say, ‘Who cares?,’ but it definitely doesn’t symbolize a smooth transition,” said Robinson, who is now political director of the National Democratic Training Committee, which trains candidates and campaign staffers all over the country.

Biden’s first priority will be the fair and efficient distribution of vaccines against the virus. The president-elect said Tuesday that he would follow the advice of Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation’s top infectious disease expert, who says that getting the president-elect himself vaccinated as soon as possible is a matter of national security.

“Dr. Fauci recommends I get the vaccine sooner than later. I want to make sure we do it by the numbers,” Biden said, adding that he’d be immunized publicly, which could help build public trust in the vaccine.

Trump’s continued opposition to Biden, meanwhile, may still present roadblocks, especially in the U.S. House where Republicans as recently as last week were introducing legislation to punish members of their party who might be seen as urging Trump to “concede prematurely.” Other top Trump administration Cabinet officials haven’t yet followed the lead of Pompeo, who plans to meet Thursday with Blinken, Biden’s secretary

of state nominee.

“The president is still involved in ongoing litigation related to the election,” said White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany, calling the Electoral College vote “one step in the constitutional process.”

Rick Tyler, a Republican operative and fierce Trump critic, said it seemed at first like “the Electoral College had broken the evil spell that Trump cast across the Republican Party.”

But he said the attacks on the electoral system that Trump is continuing to wage have many of his supporters now questioning American democracy itself – and that won’t quickly dissipate just because some Republicans and world leaders are now willing to say conciliatory things.

“There really are 50-plus million people who no longer have trust in our system, and that’s a dangerous thing,” said Tyler. He said Biden must “figure out a way to restore that trust. And it can’t just be a partisan attack on Republicans for, frankly, being stupid.”

Also looming large is the divided U.S. Senate, where majority control will depend on the outcome of two special elections in Georgia on Jan. 5. Unless Democrats win both those races, Senate Republicans will have the power to block many of Biden’s Cabinet nominations, not to mention thwart his policy initiatives.

Underscoring the urgency on that score, Biden traveled Tuesday to Georgia, his first trip beyond Delaware and southeast Pennsylvania since the election.

“I need two senators from this state who want to get something done, not just get in the way,” Biden told a drive-in rally in Atlanta.

Feds to delay seeking legal protection for monarch butterfly

By JOHN FLESHER
AP Environmental Writer

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. — Federal officials on Tuesday declared the monarch butterfly “a candidate” for threatened or endangered status, but said no action would be taken for several years because of the many other species awaiting that designation.

Environmentalists said delaying that long could spell disaster for the beloved black-and-orange butterfly, once a common sight in backyard gardens, meadows and other landscapes now seeing its population dwindling.

The monarch’s status will be reviewed annually, said Charlie Wooley, head of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Great Lakes regional office. Emergency action could be taken earlier, but plans now call for proposing to list the monarch under the Endangered Species Act in 2024 unless its situation improves enough to make the step unnecessary.

The proposal would be followed by another year for public comment and development of a final rule. Listing would provide a number of legal protections, including a requirement that federal agencies consider effects on the butterfly or its habitat before allowing highway construction and other potentially damaging activities.

Scientists estimate the monarch population in the eastern U.S. has fallen about 80 percent since the mid-1990s, while the drop-off in the western U.S. has been even steeper.

“We conducted an intensive, thorough review us-

ing a rigorous, transparent science-based process and found that the monarch meets listing criteria under the Endangered Species Act,” Fish and Wildlife Service Director Aurelia Skipwith said in a statement. “However, before we can propose listing, we must focus resources on our higher-priority listing actions.”

Scientists will continue monitoring the butterfly’s numbers and the effectiveness of what Wooley described as perhaps the most widespread grassroots campaign ever waged to save an imperiled animal.

Since 2014, when environmental groups petitioned to list the monarch, school groups, garden clubs, government agencies and others around the nation have restored about 5.6 million acres (nearly 2.3 million hectares) of milkweed plants on which monarchs depend, Wooley said. They lay eggs on the leaves, which caterpillars eat, while adults gather nectar from the flowers.

The volunteer effort “has been phenomenal to see,” he said. “It has made a difference in the long-term survival of monarchs and helped other pollinators that are potentially in trouble.”

But advocacy groups say it has compensated for only a small fraction of the estimated 165 million acres of monarch habitat – an area the size of Texas – lost in the past 20 years to development or herbicide applications in cropland.

“Monarchs are too important for us to just plant flowers on roadsides and hope for the best,” said Tierra Curry, a senior scientist at the Center for Biological Diversity. “They

need the comprehensive protection that comes only from the Endangered Species Act, which would save them and so many other beleaguered pollinators that share their habitat.”

The monarch’s plight is part of what the United Nations describes as a worldwide crisis threatening 1 million species – one of every eight on Earth – with extinction because of climate change, development and pollution.

Even so, the Trump administration has listed only 25 species – fewer than any since the act took effect in 1973. The Obama administration added 360.

Trump’s team also has weakened protections for endangered and threatened species in its push for deregulation. Among other changes, it limited consideration of climate change’s effects on animals when evaluating whether they should be listed.

Global warming is one of the biggest dangers to the monarch. It contributes to lengthening droughts and worsening storms that kill many during their annual migration.

About 90 percent of the world’s monarchs live in North America. Scientists measure their abundance by the size of the areas they occupy in Mexico and California, where they cluster during winter after flying thousands of miles from as far away as Canada.

The Fish and Wildlife Service estimates the larger eastern population declined from about 384 million in 1996 to a low of 14 million in 2013 before rebounding somewhat, reaching about 60 million last year.

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